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SPFHS PRODUCTION OF CHICAGO: HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

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In March the SPFHS Repertory Theatre presented this year's musical production

The production of Chicago involved over 100 students, including the crew and live pit orchestra. Mr. Morgan Knight was the director. When asked about the upcoming shows, Mr. Knight replied, "One of the best things about Chicago is the incredible choreography; it combines the best of 1920's dance with the unique style of Bob Fosse. The students have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into meeting the challenges the choreography presents."

Other staff positions were Mrs. Jan Allen (Producer and Music Director), Ms. Courtney Nemec (Assistant Director), Ms. Kara Drake (Choreographer), Mr. Trey Shore (Pit Orchestra Conductor), Mr. Jeff Allen (Set Designer), Mr. Gary Moore (Stage Crew Supervisor), Mr. Thomas Rowe (Lighting Designer), and Mrs. Joanne Sprague (Costume Designer).







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PROMOTE YOUR COMMUNITY EVENT

Community service organizations, schools and sports teams are encouraged to submit news of upcoming events or highlights and photos from recent events.

Organizations who are interested in submitting content, please email editor@rennamedia.com

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RETIRED SCOUTS HELP MAINTAIN BOY SCOUT CAMPS

House at Boy Scout Camp Somers in Stanhope, NJ over the winter. This camp serves the Union County area scouts, as well as Morris, Sussex and Middlesex Counties.

The Flintlocks are retired scouters who volunteer every Thursday at Camp Winnebago in Rockaway, NJ. All it took was some lumber, some screws and some elbow grease. Since the Flintlocks are all volunteers with outstanding

The Flintlocks repaired the Dan Beard Tree construction skills, it saves the Council from hiring outside contractors to do the repairs. A small group goes up to Camp Somers on Wednesdays to work over there. Most of the men had fathers who helped the Boy Scouts when they were in the scouts as lads, and have sons and grandchildren who were, or are, in the scouts.

For more information please visit the Facebook Page "Flintlocks", or contact Flintlocks Secretary Michael Hart at drmhart@yahoo.com.



(above) The Dan Beard Tree House at Boy Scout Camp Somers received repairs by the Flintlocks over the winter.





Reserve space in the next issue. *Call Tina today at 908-418-5586* or email info@rennamedia.com

CAR DONATION PROGRAM GIVES WHEELS TO REAL PEOPLE

What does it mean to have your own car? For
longtime Community Access Unlimited (CAU)
member Brian Shapiro, it means both stability
and freedom. Before he had a car, Brian had to
get a ride from a friend or take an Uber to his job
driving a cab in Bloomfield.director,
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"It's a lot easier," Brian said, thanks to the Volvo he received as a donation through Community Access Unlimited this fall. "I go to work and take my son places."

CAU started the vehicle donation program as a way to aid youth and individuals with disabilities who wished to complete their drivers test and gain the independence that comes with owning a vehicle. Now Brian can easily travel to the job he has had for nearly 20 years. Many have already benefited from the donation of reliable cars to get them where they need to go- from work and school to social functions.

"I've known about it for a while and it finally worked out," Brian said.

Unlike other car donation programs, CAU does not sell or scrap donated cars, receiving only a percentage of their value. By donating a vehicle to CAU, 100% of your donation will go to a person with transportation needs.

Those interested in donating a car should contact Mercedes Pagan, fundraising and event

director, at 908-354-3040 x4376 or mpagan@caunj.org.

Vehicles that may qualify for donation include those that are new, gently used, or vehicles needing minor body or mechanical work. The owner of the car must have the title at the time of donation. Car donors will receive a donation letter which can serve as a charitable donation, which is tax deductible.

Learn more about donating to or volunteering with CAU at caunj.org/support-us.

ABOUT COMMUNITY ACCESS UNLIMITED

Community Access Unlimited (CAU), celebrating its 40th year in 2019, supports people with special needs in achieving real lives in the community. CAU gives a voice to adults and youth who traditionally have little power in society, assisting its members with housing, life skills, employment, money management, socialization and civic activities. CAU also supports opportunities for advocacy through training in assertiveness, decision-making and civil rights. Currently serving more than 5,000 individuals and families, CAU continues to grow each year. For more information about CAU and its services, contact us by phone at 908-354-3040, info@caunj.org or by mail at 80 West Grand Street, Elizabeth, NJ 07202.



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To learn more call 908-526-8130 or visit www.CHChousing.org





(above) AfriCrafts fabric activity kits feature supplies and instructions for fun and easy projects for kids (no-sew and low-sew) – they're available through Cultured Expressions. Call 866-683-2568 or email info@CulturedExpressions.com.



GOT KIDS AT HOME? LET THEM SEW, CRAFT & QUILT!

With schools closed indefinitely and an increasing number of work-from-home parents and guardians due to the COVID-19 situation, planning daily activities for your favorite little people will obviously be key for the well-being of all involved!

Once their online schoolwork is complete, try using your own interest in sewing and quilting to keep them occupied. Depending on the age group, they could be happy gluing colorful scraps to cardstock to create collage artwork. Older kids might want to stitch together fabrics in their favorite color (by hand or machine) to make a simple pillow or tote bag.

Whether they've expressed an interest in learning more about the needle arts, or the suggestion is yours, we've gathered a few tips for quilting with children to make the process both fun and successful!

- Keep it simple begin with quick fabric crafts like bookmarks, sachets, fabric pendants, pouches or a fabric collage that can also become a simple art piece suitable for framing.
- Mending is Trendy! Show them how to creatively mend their clothes and/or add decorative patches and pockets with hand stitching and easy embroidery stitches.
- Take into account the child's personality when planning your quilting session. For younger kids, keep it fun (and safe) by avoiding projects that require precise measuring and cutting. Instead, pull out some precuts from your stash, focusing on the fun of design and the creativity of blending colors and patterns.
- For older kids, or those who are naturally inclined to math and geometry might be open to the more precision-based aspects of quilting, where templates & rulers are used.

- Remember that children's taste levels are more sophisticated than ever; have a variety of fabrics and embellishments available for experimentation. Provide the opportunity to work with batiks and other cool "adult" fabrics that aren't strictly juvenile in design and coloration.
- Let the child work with scraps of one of your own current projects, to create a small "featured block" you can use as the back label for your quilt. The label can include both of your signatures.
- Remember, creative expression can help to relieve some of the stress of the situation for people of any age - with any luck, you might also create a budding new fiber artist in the process! Have a follow-up project in mind to keep up the momentum and encourage their efforts as they work. The follow-ups can introduce new techniques to gradually increase their quilting skills.

Stay safe, and keep creating!



(above) Sewers and quilters interested in making their own fabric face masks will also find CE's FREE face mask video tutorial on Instagram @culturedexpressions.

ATLAS-PYTHAGORAS LODGE #10

Submitted by Christopher Sands Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 Free and Accepted Masons, which meets at 1011 Central Ave, Westfield, recently held our annual Charity Night. We donated to eight worthy groups in our community.

The Masonic Services Association, which supports Veterans in the three NJ State Veterans home and both VA Veterans homes.

Tree of Hope, which the Sheriff of Union County runs, which collects toys for needy children in Union County.

Keystone Community Living, which helps people with developmental disabilities to lead fulfilling lives. It runs a group home in South Plainfield.

Bonds of Courage, which supports Veterans and the 1st Squadron, 102nd Cavalry from the Westfield Armory.

Union County Meals on Wheels, which provides meals to the housebound or those who cannot cook themselves.

Every 15 Minutes, from Kenilworth High School, which teaches Juniors and Seniors about the consequences of drinking and driving.

The Children's Dyslexia Center, Scotch Plains, which uses the Orton-Gillingham curriculum to help children with dyslexia read and flourish.

The George Washington Masonic Memorial, A museum which is used to tell the world about George Washington, a Mason, General of the Armies and our First President!

ABOUT FREEMASONRY

Freemasonry constitutes the world's oldest and largest fraternity. The masonic experience focuses on enlightened fellowship. It encourages members to become better citizens. The fraternal bonds formed in the lodge help foster life-long friendships among men with similar values. Virtually all occupations and professions are represented. Brothers come from diverse political ideologies, but we meet as friends. Freemasons come from varied religious beliefs and creeds and believe in a supreme being.

Atlas-Pythagoras Lodge #10 meets the first and third Fridays every month except during the summer.

If you are interested in joining us, or would like more information about Freemasony, visit atlaspythagoras.com, or call (908) 233-7349.

HICKORY TREE CHORUS ANNOUNCES ANNUAL \$1,000 MUSIC SCHOLARSHIP

Are you a high school senior woman who has applied for a college music program? Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is pleased to offer the \$1,000 Diane Cecala Memorial Scholarship to a musically talented high school senior woman interested in pursuing a career in vocal music. Rehearsing in Stirling, New

Jersey, we are dedicated to teaching, singing, and performing four-part, acappella harmony. Hickory Tree Chorus has awarded an annual scholarship for over 20 years to students from areas in which its members reside.

Qualified high school senior girls with good academic records and exceptional talent in vocal

music are encouraged to apply. Students should also have applied for acceptance into a music program at a college or university. Completed applications and recordings of at least two vocal performances must be received by April 30, 2020.

Details and applications are available on the chorus web site at hickorytreechorus.org.



(above) The Hickory Tree Chorus, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, is now accepting applications for their annual \$1,000 music scholarship.



MUSICIANS WITH AND WITHOUT DISABILITIES COLLABORATIVE CONCERT

Submitted by Christopher Reardon

There was a steady bustle back stage at the Eugene G. Wilkins Theatre for the Performing Arts at Kean University a half-hour before the curtain was set to rise. Musicians tuned their instruments while singers stretched their vocal cords and performers dabbed on make-up in bathroom mirrors.

Yet what was unique about this production was the performers were a mix of musicians and singers both with and without disabilities. All were ready when the curtain rose and lights went on, shining brightly on the 5th annual collaborative concert staged by Community Access Unlimited (CAU), its Academy for Continuing Education (ACE) and Kean's Music Conservatory program. CAU is a Union Countybased, statewide nonprofit that strives to integrate people with disabilities and at-risk youth into the general community through comprehensive supports.

The musicians and singers comprised members of CAU and ACE, adults with disabilities, and students of Kean's Music Conservatory program. Kean music majors have been working with CAU members and ACE students for several years, helping them learn and appreciate music and teaching them how to play instruments. Five years ago they teamed for their first collaborative concert and the production has become an annual event.

This year the audience was treated to a delightful mixture of choral selections, rock tunes and music from Disney productions. Students from middle schools in Elizabeth and Roselle Park also performed.

"We perform songs that relate to our situation in life so we can advocate for greater community integration and how we have abilities that many people might not think are there," said Marguerite Modero, music director at ACE. "We focus on our abilities, not our disabilities.

For Maurice Stephens, a member of CAU for 11 years, this was his first chance to play bass guitar on stage in front of a live audience. He used to play trumpet but took up guitar for the collaborative concert as a new challenge.

"I wanted to do something more with music," Stephens said. "I see a lot of people playing an instrument. I said, 'Why not play two?' I'm thinking of learning piano next. It makes me feel good. I feel like I accomplished something and that's pleasurable."

Jessie Gaeta, a CAU member for two years, also performed for the first time on stage at this year's concert. She has been taking singing lessons at ACE but never took the stage until Friday.

"It made me feel really good," she said. "I'd been singing with my lessons but this was new for me. I was really excited."

Gaeta's favorite song of the evening was Blitzkrieg Bob by the Ramones, with its catchy repeated chorus of, "Hey ho, let's go! Hey ho, let's go!"

"I really like singing it," Gaeta said.

According to Lynn Schraer-Joiner, Kean's music education coordinator, music is the great

at Wilkins Theater saw this first-hand. While the back stage bustle was commonplace, what took place on stage was very special.

To learn more about CAU, visit caunj.org or follow the agency on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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COLLABORATIVE CONCERT PHOTOS

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(left) Performers from Community Access Unlimited gather backstage before joining music students from Kean University for their annual collaborative concert.



(above) Maurice Stephens and Jessie Gaeta (center), members of Community Access Unlimited, pose with Lynn Schraer-Joiner (left) of Kean University's Music Conservatory program and CAU's Marguerite Modero.



(above) Middle school students are joined by CAU singers and accompanied by Kean musicians.

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